Statement-III

Statement showing increase in SB and SC work in post offices during the last three years (Amount in Rs.)

Year	Gross funds handled(Deposits & Withdrawal) (Rs. in crores)	No. of saving accounts (all types) in crores	Savings certificate deposits (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	105128	14.91	33190
2003-04	139855	14.42	39166
2004-05	183801	16.15	33718

Threat posed by cheap Chinese mobile sets

2137. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any threat from cheap Chinese mobile handsets;

(b) if so, whether an action has been taken to include mobile sets in the watch list to counter dumping of cheaper products from China;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. Price of mobile handsets depend on its quality, features, brand, etc. and is determined by the market forces.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Schemes of BSNL and MTNL

†2138. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL and MTNL have introduced many schemes regarding cellular and landline phones;

(b) the details of those schemes and the utility of 'Jeevan Sathi' and the scheme of one rupee for entire country etc. and the benefits thereof to the public; and

(c) whether the interests of existing consumers will be safeguarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL and MTNL have introduced many schemes under both cellular and landline phone segments considering needs of customers and prevailing market conditions from time to time.

(b) Information in respect of latest schemes are given in the enclosed Statements. (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir. The One India scheme is optional and is in addition to the existing schemes. As such, the interest of consumers is safeguarded.

Statement

Latest Schemes of BSNL and MTNL

(i) *Jeevan Sathi Scheme*: MTNL subscribers on deposit of Rs. 800/- + Service Tax for Dolphin (Post Paid Service) and Rs. 900/- + Service Tax for Trump (Prepaid Service) only once in life and will get incoming free for life long. However, schemes entails recharging every 6 months by minimum Rs. 100/- for continuation of lifetime validity.

(ii) Similarly BSNL has introduced 'Anant' a life long service for their subscribers.

(iii) One India Scheme: Under this scheme, the customers of BSNL and MTNL will be able to call any place in India either by landline or mobile by merely spending Re. 1 per minute. The "One India" plan, also for the first time, takes away the distinction between the fixed line tariff and the cellular tariff and thus, makes the tariff "technology independent".

In addition, alternate tariff plans for Basic Service, GSM (prepaid and post paid services) and WLL are offered by BSNL and MTNL.

The customers have a choice as per their specific needs.

E-Readiness Assessment Report

2139. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to India e-Readiness Assessment Report, 2004, Madhya Pradesh is positioned as "Expectant" below 13 States; and

(b) if so, what initiatives have been taken by Government in order to boost e-governance initiatives in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per the India e-Readiness Assessment Report 2004, Madhya Pradesh has been ranked in the category of "Expectant" and above this category there are eleven States as two categories of Leaders and Aspiring Leaders. In the Report, ranking of States in the same category has not been done.

(b) Department of Information Technology (DIT) has taken following major steps to boost e-Governance services in the State of Madhya Pradesh:

(i) DIT through National Informatics Centre (NIC) is providing backbone e-governance network and technical support to the Central Government Departments, States, UTs and District Administrations in the country. In line with this, NIC is also providing e-Governance support to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. Video Conferencing facility has also been provided in all the 48 districts of the State.

(ii) A Scheme for establishment of State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) for providing minimum data connectivity of 2 mbps up to the block level has been approved by Government in March, 2005 with a total outlay of Rs. 3334 crores with Central assistance component of Rs. 2005 crores covering capital and operating expenditure over a period of 5 years. Under this scheme, a proposal from the State of Madhya